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ANTICIPATION

OF THE

SPEECHES, &c.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

ANTICIPATION

OF THE

SPEECHES

INTENDED TO BE SPOKEN

In the HOUSE of COMMONS,

On FRIDAY, MAY 4,

UPON THE MOTION OF ALDERMAN NEWNHAM, RELATIVE TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

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A NEW EDITION CORRECTED, OF

LOVE AND MADNESS:

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS,

ONE OF WHICH CONTAINS THE

ORIGINAL ACCOUNT OF CHATTERTON.

GOVERNOR.—"Who did the bloody deed?"
OROONOKO.—"The deed was mine.
"Bloody I know it is; and I expect
"Your laws should tell me so. Thus, self-condemn'd,
"I do resign myself into your hands,
"The hands of Justice." *Oroonoko.* V. 3.

ANTICIPATION, &c.

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1787.

THE notice which Mr. Newnham had given of his intended motion, relative to the income of the Prince of Wales, had filled the Houſe of Commons, at four o'clock, with a greater number of members than have lately attended their parliamentary duty; and the Chancellor of the Exchequer appearing, as uſual, about that hour, and the Speaker having called to Mr. Newnham, the honourable Alderman opened his intended motion nearly in the following manner:

" Sir, I am concerned to find, by the ſeveral anſwers of the Right Honourable

the Chancellor of the Exchequer relative to the buſineſs of this day, that the welfare and intereſts of the heir of the crown ſhould be one duty of importance by which the miniſter can be charged with a neglect at once derogatory to the dignity of the crown, and the honour of the nation. To repel an invitation to diſcharge a duty ſo indiſpenſable to his ſituation, by aſſerting the neceſſity of the royal commands, is to ſeek a ſanction from the ſilence of the crown that renders the negligence more unpardonable. It is with every fervent teſtimony of loyalty, which can be exacted from a member of this Houſe, that I now riſe to vindicate the intereſts of the nation in the eaſe and proſperity of the Prince of Wales, and to ſupply, by the timely interference of parliament, a dereliction of his Highneſs's welfare, diſgraceful in the eyes of foreign nations, and inglorious to this country.

" As one of the repreſentatives of the metropolis, I hope to attain credit with the Houſe for coming forward, in this extremity, upon the reſpectable grounds of the public wiſh and the public intereſt; and that thus to claim the regard of the nation, for the happineſs of their future monarch, will not be called a flying in the face of majeſty. Sir, I bend with every ſubmiſſion to the royal intention: but, under a ſilence of that intention, I truſt and I believe that it is the peculiar province of this Houſe to adviſe the crown in all caſes that ſhall to them appear eſſential to the honour and advantage of the nation.

" This abandonment of the intereſts of his Royal Highneſs, ſo aſſimilated with the daring and experimental quality of the Right Honourable Gentleman's adminiſtration,

niſtration, it becomes the peculiar duty of this Houſe to prevent and to defeat, by the motion I ſhall have the honour to ſubmit to you, the ſhameful obſequiouſneſs of miniſters to ſuppoſed intention. I ſay, Sir, ſuppoſed intention, becauſe where every argument, which can conſiſt with nature, reaſon, and true dignity, goes to unite the royal wiſhes with thoſe of the nation, for the permanent happineſs of the heir apparent, it is an inſult to majeſty, to this Houſe, and to common ſenſe, to ſuppoſe an intention that ſo manifeſtly tends to abridge it.

" I ſhall however wave, Sir, for the preſent, any further conſideration of the immediate cauſe which draws upon myſelf a taſk to which I am only conſcious of bringing into the ſcale of parliamentary debate, a zeal for the honour of the nation,

tion, and an unfeigned affection and reſpect for the royal family. Independent, therefore, of every other conſideration, and impelled by that zeal of loyalty which is congenial with every breaſt in this Houſe, I ſhall beg leave to repreſent the affairs of the Prince of Wales as they appear by authentic documents. It will appear how inadequate to the proper and becoming eſtabliſhment of his Highneſs, is his preſent very limited income; and when the Houſe ſhall have duly conſidered the change which, with the increaſed wealth of this kingdom, the ordinary and expenſive appendages of his elevated ſtation have undergone, no former allowance to a Prince of Wales will, in the preſent occaſion, be drawn into precedent: the ratio of expenſe," ſaid Mr. Newnham, " has, in almoſt every article of ornament or neceſſity, acquired a new comparative ſtandard, and precludes

cludes all concluſions from the prudence of our forefathers." Mr. Newnham then ſtated, with accuracy and clearneſs, the particulars of his Highneſs's revenues, and the amount of debts, " which," ſaid Mr. Newnham, " had been incurred by inexperience and generoſity, and were in a train of payment by the moſt extraordinary inſtance of ſelf-denial that the private hiſtory of any country has recorded." When the Honourable Alderman had gone through this part of his ſubject, which he treated with great perſpicuity and ingenuity of remark, he concluded with obſerving that, " as the Houſe was now in poſſeſſion of the grounds upon which the neceſſity of the motion, which he ſhould have the honour to make, reſted, he would leave that neceſſity to make its way to the breaſts of honourable members." The Honourable Alderman

derman then made his motion nearly in theſe words: " That as it appears to this Houſe that the reduced ſtate of the revenues of his royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales is inadequate to his high ſtation, and the due ſupport of his proper ſtate and dignity, this Houſe will take the ſame into their moſt ſerious conſideration, and grant ſuch aid to his Royal Highneſs as the neceſſity of his affairs require."

The motion was ſeconded by Lord John Cavendiſh, who expreſſed himſelf highly gratified by having a motion of ſuch evident neceſſity and importance brought forward by the reſpectable Alderderman and repreſentative of the chief city of the kingdom. " The eaſe and proſperity of his Royal Highneſs," ſaid Lord John, " are very properly denominated by the Honourable Alder-

man, a very dear intereſt of the nation; and it is a circumſtance ſtrange and unaccountable, that the ſituation of the heir apparent of the crown ſhould have been hitherto unnoticed by miniſters; but this Houſe," ſaid his Lordſhip, " is not now to diſcover that the Right Honourable Gentleman can, without other inſtigations than thoſe of whim and inexperience, ſpeculate upon the practicabilities of an overtaxed country, ſubvert the ancient principles and reſources of finance, and heap upon the voluminous records of the exchequer ſchemes of taxation, diverſified with all the novelties of juvenile experiment. Such taſks appear ſo congenial with the originalities of his adminiſtration, that not to reſcue an amiable and generous Prince from the dilemna in which oppoſing obligations had placed him, is to prefer to the dictates of national beneficence

ficence the exerciſe of public oppreſſion. When the Right Honourable Gentleman had told the houſe, that a ſurplus of the 1,200,000l. remain unapplied in the Exchequer, is it not palpable to demonſtration," ſaid Lord John, " that this dereliction of his Highneſs's welfare, on the part of the Right Honourable Gentleman proceeds more from motives of a private and malicious nature than from any fancied duty to his country, or from any other principle of ſtate convenience, than may be thought to reſult from the oppreſſion of a Prince, whoſe independent mind can penetrate through the artifices of miniſterial compliance, and embrace thoſe whoſe attachments to his Royal Perſon and Family are as notorious as they are fruitleſs. Nothing," added Lord John, " can be more convincing to my mind of the malicious motives of the Right Honourable Gen-

tleman, by his uncommon diſregard to the accommodation of his Royal Highneſs, than the vaſt merit which that noble Prince has obtained in the public eye, by his retirement from his high ſtation, for the moſt worthy of purpoſes—the payment of his debts! a meaſure that, when conſidered in its operations by encouragement and example, cannot fail to form an æra in domeſtic œconomy and pecuniary degeneration; objects, which the fatalities of one paſtime render more and more neceſſary to ſome of the firſt families in the kingdom." His Lordſhip concluded by giving his moſt cordial ſupport to the motion. Mr. Pitt now roſe, and ſtated briefly that, as he felt the motion to be of a nature diſreſpectful to the crown, he ſhould decline entering, unleſs compelled into the object of the motion, and content himſelf with the aſſurance that his duty

would

would be beſt diſcharged by moving the order of the day.

Mr. Powis roſe and obſerved,

Mr. Speaker, I ſhall not treſpaſs long upon your time, but I ſhould hold myſelf inexcuſable were I upon this occaſion to give a ſilent vote. In a queſtion ſo highly intereſting to the body of which I have the honour to be a member, and to the country of which I am a citizen, the exertion of my poor abilities is a duty from which I cannot exempt myſelf. As long as my voice can be heard, will I warn you of the impending danger, and urge my vaticination of the alarming conſequences of adopting the meaſure propoſed. I am far from impeaching the intentions of the worthy Alderman who made the motion, his underſtanding has been the dupe of his heart, the kindneſs of his nature has

led him into the miſtake. I do flatter myſelf that the ſame diſpoſition will incline him to withdraw his motion when he ſhall be convinced of his error: without any further exordium let us come to the point, and let gentlemen recollect that it will be impoſſible for us to increaſe the Prince of Wales's revenue, without becoming ſharers in his diſgrace and partners of his crimes. If he be allowed to be profligate, (and who can doubt it,) we ſhall be conſidered profligate too; if he be extravagant, we ſhall alſo be branded with extravagance; if he be regardleſs of decency and good manners, we ſhall aſſiſt him in trampling them under foot; if he deride the ſolemnity and looſen the holds of conjugal engagements, we ſhall ſecure him impunity; if he fly in the face of his country's laws, we ſhall enable him to infringe them with effect; if he live in a

ſtate

ſtate of diſobedience as a ſon, we ſhall infuſe poiſon in the cup, which he offers to the lips of his parent. And are theſe phantoms of the imagination, are they Sir, wild chimæras without foundation or ſubſtance? No, Mr. Speaker—Would to God they were not realized by exiſting facts, by facts of univerſal notoriety.—Had it pleaſed the Prince to be leſs overt in his offences; and, if he muſt be vicious, had he confined to a narrower circle the effects of his vice, I ſhould have been the laſt to publiſh to the world tranſactions at which my ſoul ſickens and which I would fain forget for ever—but no event is of greater publicity—the ſun ſhines not upon a man in England who is ignorant of the Prince's conduct. And oh! what a conduct! he has ſtabbed the morals of the nation I fear beyond hope of recovery; he has broken down the barriers of propriety and order.

I am

I am not in my nature ſevere—there are many whom I rejoice to ſee in their places on this occaſion, to whom I can with confidence appeal:—but not to be rouſed at a time like this, when an offender ſeeks a ſhelter within our walls who deſerves to be puniſhed, when *he* expects to find excuſe for *every* crime who ought to be incapable of *any*, and from us, who ought to be moſt implacable, being moſt injured; nay, aſks reward for his miſdeeds, would argue an apathy and inſenſibility to which I acknowledge Mr. Speaker, I am a ſtranger. I honour and obey my King, I love his family; but, paramount to all other conſiderations, I deem the duty which I owe my country; when her intereſts are affected I cannot be indifferent; when her laws are violated, I muſt complain; when ſhe receives a wound, I bleed from my heart. I ſee all theſe things involved in the

the preſent queſtion, and I therefore pray and entreat the Houſe that they will not diſgrace themſelves, and injure the country who has choſen them her repreſentatives, by agreeing to the preſent motion; as they will thereby invite every future P——ce of W—s, who may happen unfortunately to be born with the ſame propenſities, to follow this P—ce's example.

Sir. J. Erſkine roſe, and addreſſed the houſe to the following effect.

Mr. Speaker,

I never roſe with ſo ſtrong a conviction that the cauſe I was about to defend was the cauſe of right, as I feel at this moment. It is the cauſe of honour, the cauſe of juſtice, the cauſe of human nature it-

ſelf. If my known attachment to the Prince of Wales, be objected to me as a diſqualifying circumſtance towards forming a juſt judgment on the ſubject, let it plead alſo for the warmth, the agitation, the anxiety which I experience in ſupporting a meaſure ſo near my heart. But why ſhould it be conſidered an impediment in ſo plain, ſo obvious a queſtion? A queſtion which is anſwered by every dictate of philanthropy, which without partaking of metaphyſical refinement, goes directly to the feelings of every man. By them let it be tried. I do not diſclaim an appeal to the paſſions: it is fit they ſhould be conſulted, but it ſhall be my aim to intereſt your paſſions through the medium of your judgment; and if this can be effected, in all events I ought to prevail. I confeſs I am earneſt in the buſineſs. The walls of this houſe would brand me with indifference were I

not

not moved to ſee an amiable young prince adorned by every accompliſhment which can perfect the manners, and dignified by every quality which can recommend the heart, his foibles and imprudence ſerving but as a ſhade to virtues, which would otherwiſe ſhine too bright;--the heir apparent to the Britiſh empire, to ſee him I ſay expoſed to ridicule and obliquy, by the ill-timed parſimony of a Britiſh parliament; to obſerve him thus meritorious denied by a great people, the indulgence which a good father would accord to an offending ſon, to find him reduced to a ſtate beneath his rank; nay, oppreſſed by the deadening weight of indigence without relief.---Is it not enough to rouſe the indignation and wound the feelings of any but the moſt obdurate ſoul alive? Even ſuch a one could not be indifferent. I am ſure I need not caution you Sir, againſt believing the vague and idle

rumours which ſtalk about our ſtreets againſt the Prince of Wales—of his keeping company with this and that debauchee, of his continuing in a perpetual ſtate of intoxication, and of his neglecting the acquaintance of thoſe noble perſonages who compoſe the luſtre of the other houſe, and who are the beſt qualified for his ſociety. The bare relation of ſuch ſtories is ſufficient to excite laughter and exclude belief—ſo improbable in their nature, ſo ſubverſive of the truth! You know Mr. Speaker, and the greater part of the houſe muſt know, that the Prince of Wales not only aſſociates with the nobility of this country, but that he is cheriſhed and beloved by them; nor could that be the caſe if, in the long catalogue of crimes for which he is arraigned, by a ſervile and envious group of diſſembling court ſycophants, there appeared one founded and eſtabliſhed which was inconſiſtent with a man

a man of honour or a gentleman. To believe it would reflect a degree of diſhonour upon their lordſhips, which I hope no member of this houſe can poſſibly attribute to them. But we have heard a very impaſſioned and declamatory harangue from a worthy gentleman, whoſe age did not promiſe ſo much fire, and from whoſe character ſo much acerbity could not have been expected. I congratulate the houſe on the diſcovery they have made of the nature of his abilities, and hope that before long we ſhall ſee his warmth directed to a more proper object. He has certainly attempted to prove but one thing to day, in which to be ſure he has ſucceeded; but it ſeems to me this might have been done with much leſs trouble to himſelf and pain to the houſe. He might have convinced us that he was angry without the abuſe of words, aſſaſſination of epithets, and waſte of time,

time, by which his ſpeech has been diſtinguiſhed. I dare ſay, he fondly conceives that the philippic which he has pronounced againſt the unfortunate Prince of Wales, will prove fatal to his cauſe, and carry conviction to the houſe that he is not a proper object of their bounty. But, good God, Sir, how is it poſſible for common ſenſe ſo to err, or human reaſon to be ſo perverted! Stripping the gentleman's ſpeech of its high-ſounding ornaments and frenetic declamation, what does it amount to! Argument wrought in fallacy, and concluſion built upon error. Let us particularize. He tells us that the example of the Prince of Wales, has injured the morals of the nation, and that he has broken down the barriers of decency and good manners. Were we ſitting in a cenſorial capacity, and trying the Prince for any offence againſt the laws of morality, this allegation would be moſt

properly

properly and pertinently brought forward: I ſhould in that caſe, have no difficulty in pleading not guilty; and if the gentleman could produce a ſingle inſtance of a vice become more faſhionable, or a breach of manners more tolerated now than before the Prince became the object of public attention, I would deſiſt from his defence. But we are not trying the Prince of Wales, or his merits—would to God they might be fairly and fully inveſtigated. Diffident as I am of my own ſtrength upon that ground, moſt cheerfully would I meet the fierceſt of his aſſailants, and upon the iſſue of the conteſt would I reſt my cauſe. This I take rather to be the point in controverſy, whether it be not eſſential to the dignity of this country, whoſe repreſentatives we are, to ſupport the rank, to maintain the honour, and to protect the fame of the heir apparent of the Britiſh

crown,

crown, and, upon a ground of policy, upon a ground of propriety, upon a ground of duty, is it moſt indiſpenſable in my opinion. For ſuppoſing the foibles of the Prince to be as they are repreſented to be by the enraged gentleman on the other ſide of the houſe, derogatory to the character of ſo high a perſonage, which would be, the wiſer courſe, which would become us more to plunge him into deſpair and hurry him on to ruin by our ſeverity, or to reclaim him by our liberality, to enable him to recover the points which he has loſt, and to eraſe from his eſcutcheon the blots which may be found there? The intemperance of youth never fails to be corrected by the ſolidity of maturer years, but the abandonment of hope is followed by an exceſs of depravity and almoſt inevitably leads to deſtruction. But, on the gentleman's own ſuppoſition, the argument turns ſo clearly againſt

againſt him, how much more ſo will it appear, when we conſider as we ought that, inſtead of being profligate, he is humane; inſtead of immoral, compaſſionate; and that where he is repreſented as profuſe, his expenditures are in the cauſe of beneficence; that his ear is ever open to the tale of the unfortunate, and his purſe to relieve their diſtreſſes, that in his friendſhip he is ſincere, in his deportment affable, and that he never feels himſelf a prince but when he is exerting the power of doing good. I am aware that the ſtrongeſt objection, which will be urged this evening againſt parliamentary interference to relieve the Prince's diſtreſſes, will be founded on the extreme delicacy of the queſtion—on the relation which ſubſiſts between his Majeſty and the Prince; but, without meaning a diſloyal or an irreverent idea that the father is inexorable to the ſon, this is not a reaſon that

the people of this country ſhould forget their duty to the Prince of Wales: but, on the contrary, if the King withold from him a ſubſiſtence ſuitable to his rank, it becomes more neceſſary and more indiſpenſable for us to provide for his exigencies. I cannot perſuade myſelf yet entirely to leave the ſubject, though I am ſenſible that I have already too long treſpaſſed on the attention of the houſe; [here a cry of hear him, hear him, from the young members in the houſe;] but I ſhall conclude in a few words. When I conſider the magnanimity of the Prince of Wales, in retiring from the ſplendour to which he had been accuſtomed, of his retrenching his expenſes and devoting one half of his income to the payment of his debts; I become an enthuſiaſt, and could never be ſatisfied with repeating and reurging his claims to the attention of this houſe; they are traits which impreſs upon my mind indelibly

indelibly the brightneſs of his character, and gold and jewels can add nothing to its luſtre. The worthy Alderman, who brings the queſtion now under your conſideration, has my warmeſt thanks for his diſintereſtedneſs and zeal upon the whole of this buſineſs; they muſt recommend him to the admiration and eſteem of all good men. But this will not be his only reward; he will find an ample one in his own reflections, an inexhauſtible ſource of pleaſure and ſatisfaction will there be opened to him, his conſcience will reward him, and peaceful will be that pillow where reſts the remembrance of actions paſt.

Sir James Erſkin having concluded his very cordial harangue, was followed by Mr. H—— B—— to the following purport:

" The reſpect, Sir, which I feel in common with the Right Honourable Gentleman would induce me to decline entering upon relations which the worthy Alderman and the noble Lord have thought proper to advance; but however reluctantly I do it, it is put out of my power to keep that ſeal upon my lips which a ſubject of this extreme delicacy ought moſt carefully to preſerve. It is evident to my mind that neither the honour, the intereſt, nor the inclination of his Royal Highneſs, are conſulted on this day, by the motion of the Honourable Alderman; for to propoſe the conduct of ſo exalted a perſonage to the inquiſition of a free debate in this Houſe, is to excite the expoſition of weakneſſes, the publication of follies, and the hiſtory of one indiſcretion myſteriouſly replete with every miſchief that can befal the inconſiderate indulgence of paſſion. The honour of his Royal Highneſs cannot

not therefore have been conſulted by the authors of this inquiry. As little have they conſulted his Highneſs's intereſt when they drag forward, in oppoſition to the rules of this Houſe, a queſtion ſo evidently reſting upon the option of the crown to prevent. And ſtrange indeed muſt be the infatuation to expect panegyric to prevail in a diſcuſſion of the cauſes of his degraded ſituation. Sir, it is painful to me to advert to a period when the emancipation of his Royal Highneſs from the ſuppoſed reſtraints of a wiſe education caſt him into all the ſhameleſs miſeries of debauchery, and the diſgrace of unprincely and profligate friendſhips. The moment of national impoveriſhment could not inſpire a ſingle dictate of patriotic œconomy, and, with all the improvidence of deluſion, the voracious ſchemes of gambling harpies, and the faſcinations of beauty, plunged him into all the neceſſities

ceſſities of anticipated revenue. To expect redemption from that of the public, were to deſire the heavy and incumbent preſſure of national want, to be aggravated by a load of debt rendered ſhameful by its creation, and ruinous to ſuſtain. So indiſpenſable does it appear to me, Sir, to the due diſcharge of the duties of the Right Honourable Gentleman's ſituation, and ſo little conſonant with every thing which my own ſituation, as a member of this Houſe, renders obligatory to prefer before any other intereſt that of the public, I do with the fulleſt conviction of the wiſdom and true patriotiſm of the views of the Right Honourable Gentleman, give my moſt decided negative to the motion of the Honourable Alderman.

Mr. Wraxhall, who had riſen ſeveral times, at laſt caught the eye of the Speaker, and began a ſpeech ſomewhat florid,

florid, deſultory, and continental, in which we ſhould in vain attempt to follow him *paſſibus æquis* but as nearly as the intricacy of foreign names, terms, and connections, will allow, a mere Engliſh reporter, we think he expreſſed himſelf nearly in theſe words:

" Sir, when I compiled the hiſtory of the houſe of Valois, rendered ſo eminent by the ever-memorable names of Francis and Henry, I could have been pleaſed if, in my reſearches into the antiquities of Gaul, I could have vindicated the race of thoſe princes from the barbarous origin of the Franconian Goths, and the Scandinavian anceſtry of Attila the Hun. The *nil niſi Cecropides*, I have ever thought a ſevere, but a juſt ſarcaſm, of Juvenal; and I am ſorry to ſay that the reigning monarch excepted, the princes of the houſe of Bourbon, as of Valois,

have

have little to boaſt of perſonal or official merit. Whatever my heroes have exhibited of that nature, have, as in my own adventures in Copenhagen, conſiſted principally in acts of gallantry. Sir, though princely inclinations of that ſort were in more remote periods of ſociety detrimental to the felicity of the ſubject, I truſt no argument can be drawn from ſo ſimple a fact to bear againſt the motion of the Honourable Alderman. "One ſwallow," Sir, "does not make a ſummer," The amorous paſſions are not neceſſarily connected with the moral or political duties of ſovereigns or of heirs apparent. The Autocratrice of all the Ruſſias is a princeſs of that notorious ſalacity, that I am aſtoniſhed honourable gentlemen do not advert to the political innocence of ſuch indulgencies. The alluſion, Mr. Speaker, may be thought extreme, and I believe it is; for though Elizabeth may

be

be like Meſſatina, *laſſata non ſatiata*, his Royal Highneſs has never been charged with the indefatigable talent of a Maximus*. The political paralleliſm of the idea is what I wiſh to impreſs upon the obſervation of the Houſe. It will inſtantly carry their imaginations towards the Kneiſter, where the ſtimulus of ambition is ſeen to operate at Cherſon, with all the dignified virulence of an offended and chaſtiſing ſovereign. With the velocity of a coſſack, this enterpriſing Czarina travels thouſands of miles to carry defiance to the very beard of the Turk." Mr. Wraxhall was now interrupted by a cry of "the queſtion, the queſtion." "Do not gentlemen perceive," continued this indefatigable traveller, "how imme-

* This emperor, when relating to his courtiers his capture of 200 virgins, added, *quarum undecim una nocte inivi*: and we ſuppoſe Mr. W. to have alluded to this anecdote.

diately allied with the queſtion is the very brief circuit I have led the Houſe with the moſt able, as the moſt amorous, of modern potentates; or muſt I remind them that a ſimilar diſpoſition, though it rendered the ever-neceſſitous Charles hateful to a once-affectionate and long-forbearing nation, will be no impediment to a reſtoration of the French provinces, by the *enterpriſing arms* of the preſumptive heir of George the third? *Omnia vincit amor!* Sir, the Hyrcinian foreſt, at this day repreſented by the ſmall, but beautiful, foreſt of Arden, unlike the deſerts of Siberia affords—" Mr. Wraxhall was again interrupted by a general coughing, and vociferation of " queſtion, the queſtion," ſo he finiſhed rather abruptly by declaring that it was his intention, had the patience of the Houſe permitted him, to have taken a very ſhort comparative,

rative, proſpective, and retroſpective view of the ſtate of the royal families of Europe, and deduce from the moſt authentic teſtimonies of his private correſpondence and perſonal intimacy with all the continental characters, orders, views, ſyſtems, and practices, that the interpoſition of parliament was the only means competent to effect the purpoſe of the motion of the Honourable Alderman, and which he ſhould ſupport by his vote, in order, by the way, he ſaid, to prove, that whatever regret he felt by the ſtrange diſconnection of this country with the powers of the continent, but *one* other ſentiment or expreſſion in the "ſhort review," bore the ſmalleſt trait of his political opinions or literary endowments.

Sir G——y P——e T——r.

Sir, though I voted againſt miniſtry on the ſhop-tax laſt month, yet, Sir, I ſhall

on this occaſion vote with them, I think, Sir, that no occaſion can ariſe again, in which I ſhall vote againſt the Right Honourable Gentleman at the head of the treaſury, for I firmly and verily believe that if any man in England can ſave this nation, it is the Right Honourable Gentleman; and I have the moſt implicit faith in his abilities; nay Sir, much more than I have, even in my own. For Sir, whenever I do not underſtand the ſubject of debate, as in the Iriſh propoſitions, or lately in the commercial treaty, I always rely on his talents, and never, I verily believe, was I once miſtaken; I mean, [here a cry to queſtion,] Sir, I aſk pardon for this digreſſion. Sir, I agree with miniſtry that an addition to the income of his Royal Highneſs ought not to be made; nay, Sir, I am of opinion that it would be a very good ſort of thing for ſome gentlemen of abilities to move that it is [illegible] increaſed, is increaſing, and ought

to

to be diminiſhed"—Sir, his Royal Highneſs has 50,000 per annum. It is all a farce, Sir. Lady P——ge and I the other night, entered fully into the buſineſs, and counted up the elegant things that this would furniſh, [a laugh.] Sir, I am in order, and in the underſtanding of gentlemen, [here Mr. Dr—ke called hear, hear.] Calculation Sir, as my worthy abſent friend Mr. Eden ſays, is the ground work of certainty and profit, and he always followed that; and, like myſelf, always had a book in which domeſtic matters and the compound intereſt of every farthing was kept. Sir, on a calculation, I can prove that houſekeeping may be within 5000l. per annum, and here Sir are my documents. [Sir Gregory here produced a liſt of houſekeeping expenſes, &c. &c. with an advertiſement out of the General Advertiſer, of block tin kitchen furniture, all within the ſum of

ten

ten guineas.] For theſe reaſons Sir, and becauſe the Right Honourable the C——r of the Exchequer thinks ſo, I vote againſt the motion of the worthy Alderman.

Sir L——d K——n, Maſter of the R——lls.

" I am extremely happy, Sir, to find a ſpirit of economy begins to pervade this Houſe, and inſpire gentlemen with proper confidence in its defence. I am a plain man, to whom the advantages of an early introduction into good company was denied; and whom, indeed, I believe no ſunſhine of proſperity would ever be able to warm into thoſe little amiable attentions that diſtinguiſh fine gentlemen. For my part, Sir, the boaſted graces of my Lord Cheſterfield have few attractions for me; and, indeed, Lady K——n has

often

often told me that the luxury of clean linen was an enfeebling indulgence, known only to modern days; for I can well remember when Wedneſdays and Sundays were the days for ſhifting in Wales. And this, Sir, brings me locally on the ground of debate. I object to the motion of the Honourable Alderman. The Prince of Wales ſhall never have my vote for what will promote the tendency to corruption in this kingdom, and introduce into his principality thoſe luxuries under a want of which I myſelf was bred, and in an ignorance of which I believe from my ſoul the Welch at this day live very happily."

Mr. Martin, Mr. Le Meſurier, and Sir Richard Hill roſe together, but the Speaker bowing to Sir Richard,—The Honourable Baronet congratulated himſelf, on having firſt caught the eye of the Speaker, and ſaid he truſted that what he

ſhould

ſhould have to adduce would be found to deſerve a precedence, as his objections to the motion of the worthy Alderman were derived from no point of party, policy or politeneſs to miniſters, but from the inſpirations of purity; habits of dreaming," continued the Honourable Baronet, "and the patience with which this Houſe has formerly heard their interpretations, perſuade me that whatever other Honourable Members have to urge upon the queſtion, that no one will diſpute this truth: 'that the encouragement of habits of unrighteouſneſs is beneath the dignity of Parliament.' Sir, I mean not to impeach the morality of the worthy Alderman, but he will give me leave to aſſert the wiſdom of obeying the dictates of a conſcience, whoſe purity is uncontaminated by the aſſociations of traffic and the intereſted combinations of debtor and creditor. In the county of

Salop,

Salop reſides no creditor of his Royal Highneſs, no impatience is there diſcovered of a tardy payment of his princely debts—nor the ſmalleſt deſire to increaſe the pageantry of Carlton-houſe. Unanimouſly do they exclaim 'Woe to the land whoſe princes eat in the morning—but bleſſed is that land whoſe princes eat in due ſeaſon for ſtrength and not for drunkenneſs.' A voice from the gallery here exclaimed, "I bet a tourte to an olio de Prince wins." The Houſe, upon inquiry, was informed that it proceeded from Weltjie, who had fallen aſleep, but the Speaker having ordered him as a puniſhment, to keep awake during the remainder of the debate, Sir Richard continued "thoſe religious texts, Mr. Speaker, it highly befits the ſuperintendance of this houſe not to infringe, and to ſupply by their adoption of the motion of the Right Honourable Gentleman; the

ſhameful negligence of the Archbiſhop of Canterbury and the ſpiritual courts. Sir, if my zeal as a Chriſtian be exemplary in this Houſe, my ſenſe of duty to Lady Hill, and the unbiaſſed freeholders of the county of Salop, ſhall be inſtantly evinced to the ſatisfaction of the Houſe. It is an axiom coeval with the eſtabliſhment of monaſteries in Europe, that the duties of life ought to be ſubſervient to the rules of piety and moral conduct, nor ought our actions ever to ſwerve from ſuch a direction, for any gratifications that are not connubial. For my own conformity to this principle, I appeal to Lady Hill. Sir, the agitations of my laſt night's dream were as detrimental to her repoſe as the viſion which occaſioned them was ominous of the defeat of virtue. I dreamt, Mr. Speaker, that the uncontaminated ſoul of Lady Hill had ſuffered the temptations of the evil one to ſubvert thoſe

practices

practices of purity, and privations of ſenſuality, which the principles of a ſinful and contrite heart impoſe upon the deſires of a frail and laſcivious nature. The genius of temptation appeared to my aſtoniſhed fancy wreſtling with the pious partner of my bed; and I was waked from the trance of ſurpriſe, by the plaintive voice of expiring virtue. "Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning, let us ſolace ourſelves with loves." And after a ſhort pauſe my aſtoniſhed ears, Mr. Speaker, were aſſailed by this wanton madrigal;——

May this warm night, Sir Richard, be
Omen of grateful bliſs to me,
Thou ſolace of my life!
For ah! how poorly dreams diſcharge,
The duties due to both at large,
Your country and your wife.

As ſoon as the hubbub and laughter, which this trait of Shropſhire purity had had occaſioned, were over, the Honourable Baronet ſaid, "this wonderful remonſtrance, Sir, though unreal end viſionary, induced me inſtantly to diſcharge one of the duties---and I feel, I aſſure the Houſe, ſcarce an inferior degree of ſatisfaction in making this effort, to diſcharge that which remains due to my country and my political purity, by voting with the Right Honourable Gentleman.

As ſoon as Sir Richard Hill had finiſhed, Mr. Chamberlain Wilkes roſe to engage the attention of the Houſe.

"Dreams," ſaid the Honourable Chamberlain, "we are told come from Jove; and, were I now a member of the club-room of Achilles, or of any of Homer's heroes, and not a member of the Britiſh

Parliament, I would be one of the firſt here to ſubſcribe to the divinations of the pious Baronet. But, Sir, as I am here a member of parliament, and of courſe among my brethren of this life, can come little under the charge of divine grace: —as I dream as little as moſt men, and as I confeſs that my dreams, when of the ladies, are rarely pious or poetical, I muſt be allowed, in this place, and thus ſituated, to give my vote and deliberations without a pretenſion to any ſhare of preternatural inſpiration. Sir, the language which the Honourable Gentleman has uſed to enforce his moralizing lay may be ſcriptural, but I believe gentlemen will hardly deem it parliamentary. No man is more an advocate for the breathings of contrition, and the aſpirations of devotion, than I am—no man more adverſe to the wantonneſs of profuſion—no man more impreſſed with the obligations of decency,

decency, and the ſanctity of ſocially moral obligations. Yet, Sir, I confeſs I am, on this occaſion, impreſſed with ideas different from thoſe of the Honourable Gentleman, and am ready to meet him, text for text, in ſupport of the motion of the Honourable Alderman. On an occaſion ſimilar, no doubt, to the preſent has that eloquent preacher Eccleſiaſtes exclaimed, "Rejoice, O young man! in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the ſight of thine eyes, becauſe a man hath no better thing under the ſun than to eat, drink, and be merry." To ſit ſilently down amid ſuch a clamour of over-righteouſneſs, and ſuch an alarm of ſophiſtry, would be pardonable if the ſophiſtry confined itſelf to the playfulneſs of ſpeculation—leſs dangerous than ridiculous: but, Sir, when fallacy of argument is to

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ſtand in the front of national proceedings; when the force of error is not only to demoliſh abſtract reaſoning, but is to ſubvert the good ſenſe of human conduct, and finally to triumph over the dignity of this nation; I confeſs that, however I may, in endeavouring to oppoſe and confute, feel the inſufficiency of my abilities, I am convinced that I ſhall never have reaſon to lament a conſcientious effort towards the diſcharge of the great duties that every man in this country, and more eſpecially every member of parliament, owes his own character, and the obligations of his conſtituents. This is a point, Sir, of that importance in which the habit of ſilence to which I am allied, both by diffidence and principle, is to be ſurmounted; and I moſt heartily thank the Houſe for their indulgence to my effort towards a conſcientious diſcharge of my duty in giving my

vote,

vote, which I now do, for the motion of the worthy Alderman."

The editor of this report was ſo unfortunate as not to be able to procure the written ſpeech which the Chamberlain diſpatched to the preſs, and which we hear was long, pious, verſatile, and elegant.

As ſoon as Mr. Chamberlain was ſeated, Mr. Courtney aroſe, and began by congratulating the Houſe upon that ſtream of light, that flood of intellectual effulgence, which he ſaid equally, on all mighty and momentous occaſions, iſſued from the pious and noble baronet; who, like ſome winged meſſenger, pacing on a meteor from the ſkies, at once edified, exhorted, eradiated, and aſtoniſhed! "He has ſo luminouſly lightened o'er the point in debate," continued Mr. Courtney, "and

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ſo effectually, by his reaſoning and elo-quence, thundered away the clouds and thick darkneſs which ſeemed to involve and invelope the Heir Apparent and the throne, the Alderman, the Treaſury-bench, and the queſtion, that now the true complexion and real poſition of each is palpable as a poſt, and plain as a pike-ſtaff.

Sir, the noble Baronet has dreamt like a ſpirit of health againſt a goblin d——d: and notwithſtanding the worthy and con-ſcientious Chamberlain ſeems envious of, and hoſtile to, this Salopian viſion, and is pleaſed to ſuppoſe it more pious and poetical, than pertinent or parliamentary, in this opinion I muſt differ from him entirely, eſſentially, and toto cœlo. For I will contend and maintain the diametric and direct converſe of the aſſertion, *pugnis et calcibus unguibus et roſtro.* And who

will have the forehead to deny that this tranſcendent dream of the devout Baronet is much more ſenſible, ſolid, and ſatisfactory than the baſeleſs fabric of many a viſion, which the right honourable gentleman has often reared within theſe walls.

Many patriots and heroes, Mr. Speaker, have *watched* and *waked* for the commonwealth and their poſterity; nay, all this did even a Roman gooſe perform—but what patriot, or what gooſe—*the noble Baronet only excepted*, ever dreamt of *ſleeping* either for the ſolace of the ſex, or the good of their country?

Here Mr. Courtney burſt forth, as it were by inſpiration—

Sir Richard is a patriot knight,
Who dreams ſo wiſe and witty;
He ought to dream both day and night,
And dwell in London City.

O thither

O thither ſhou'd he once tranſlate
His family from Salop;
How would he cleanſe affairs of ſtate,
Beyond a doſe of jalap.

With texts the worthy Chamberlain,
Might cram him to the chin,
And from his partner, might and main,
Expel the man of ſin.

That Imp who on his pious head,
Eſſay'd a lew'd inciſion;
To blemiſh Lady Hill in bed,
A devil of a viſion!

Of Mr. P——y's ſpeech we ſhall not attempt a report; it was fervently delivered in favor of the motion, but the unexpected, and ſomewhat extraordinary ſpeech which Mr. S—t thought fit to make for the firſt time, induces us to contract, or be quite ſilent on the ſpeeches of ſeveral other hon. members, Mr. Marſham, Sir Francis Baſſet, and Lord Mulgrave. Mr. S—— began

a ſpeech of conſiderable length in a very grave and ſolemn tone of voice, by obſerving, that he had had the honour of a ſeat in Parliament for 27 years, and not once during that period, had he ever treſpaſſed on the time or patience of the Houſe, or preſumed to offer his opinion upon any, even the moſt important occaſion. His ſilence had proceeded as much, perhaps, from a ſenſe of propriety, as from any remarkable want of abilities. He had always thought there had been orators enough, and too many pretenders to oratory, who wearied and diſgraced the houſe, and whoſe vain effuſions, bad even when corrected by ſome reporter of debates, and when delivered contemptible, ſerved but to fill the vacant columns of a daily paper. —He never had the vanity to ſuppoſe he was one of that claſs, whoſe abi-

lities

lities would demand attention, or that he was poſſeſſed of talents which it would be an injuſtice to his country to conceal; and to riſe and make an empty harangue merely that he might be intitled to ſend his ſpeech to a printer he deemed beneath him. It had always been, ſaid Mr. S——, his practice to liſten with the utmoſt attention to every debate on ſubjects of real moment, and when he had improved his judgment by the ſuperior knowledge of others, and diſcovered truth from the lights ſtruck out by the claſhing of oppoſing parties, he, in ſilence, gave a vote, directed by the dictates of an honeſt heart, unbiaſſed by prejudice or party—his conſtituents, he could proudly declare, approved his conduct. If, continued the hon. member, he was not bleſſed with that ſuperior endowment

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of the mind which can decide on the moſt important occaſions for itſelf, neither was he ſo fooliſh as to vote for the worſt meaſures when better were pointed out to him. Thus had he ſupported indifferently, the meaſures both of miniſtry and oppoſition; he had oppoſed men when he knew them to err, without conſidering that they ſat on this bench (the hon. member pointed to the Treaſury-bench), which diſpenſes rewards and honors; he had on other occaſions ſupported the ſame men though they were on that ſide of the houſe, where hope alone—the hope of change, ſuſtained them amidſt poverty and famine,—nay, more, he had braved, in ſupport of what he was convinced was right, the ſcoff, the laughter, the ridicule, he might ſay, the contempt of all parties, and had given his

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ſingle oppoſing vote againſt the ſentiments of the whole houſe; in this manner he had performed what he eſteemed to be the duty of a repreſentative, whoſe principles were good, though his abilities were not great, and had obtained neither place nor penſion for himſelf, his friends, or relations. He hoped the Houſe would excuſe his dwelling thus long upon the ſubject of himſelf; what he had taken the liberty to premiſe proceeded from no vanity, nor a wiſh to inſult others, but to impreſs a conviction on their minds, that this his *maiden ſpeech*, would be guided by the ſame principle as had directed his ſilent votes. It was the vaſt importance of the ſubject that then engaged the attention of the Houſe, and of the whole nation, and its ſingular tendency, that forced him to break that prudent ſilence

which

which he thought he ſhould ever have maintained; and though it was not his lot to be endowed with thoſe eminent talents which many gentlemen had diſplayed that night, yet as he ſpoke on a ſubject which demanded little of the arts of oratory, he truſted he might expect their attention. Political knowledge, ſaid Mr. S——t, the ſcience of government, the arts of legiſlation, were the reſult of ſtudy, and required talents which every one did not poſſeſs; but the ſentiments of right and wrong were implanted in the breaſt of every man, and the moſt common underſtanding was ſufficient to diſcriminate between vice and virtue, folly and wiſdom, infamy and decency. It was this common underſtanding in a man, in whom neither the faſhion of the age, nor the cry of a party had deſtroyed that ſenſe of decency,

cency, nor levelled the diſtinction between an honourable and reprobate conduct, that induced him to declare thus openly, the grounds of the vote he ſhould that night give, and the reaſons of his differing ſo widely with the ſentiments of ſome gentlemen who had ſpoken with an enthuſiaſm worthy of a better cauſe. The motion that had been made by the worthy Alderman, and he was ſorry to ſay ſeconded and ſupported by great characters, and great abilities, was, that an addreſs be preſented to his M—— to order an enquiry into the affairs of the Prince of Wales, and relieve him from his embarraſſed ſituation. He would allow, he ſaid, that the reduced revenues of H. R. H. were inferior to his high and exalted rank, and inadequate to the ſupport of his proper dignity. But before gentlemen came to a deciſion on

that motion would it not be proper, would it not better become the office and dignity of that Houſe to aſcertain what title H. R. H. had to their interference, what claims upon their bounty? if he had any, the motion ſhould have his hearty aſſent, but ſhould it appear that he had forfeited all title to their extraordinary ſervices, all claim to their extraordinary bounty, it would certainly conſiſt with the conſtitutional dignity of that Houſe, to declare to the world, by adopting the motion of the right hon. gentlemen, their ſentiments of his actions. For his part, he would boldly declare, and it would be in his opinion, a treachery to his country if he did not, that the conduct of H. R. H. met with his moſt decided condemnation. He would briefly ſtate the grounds of his diſapprobation, and the reaſons which had

had influenced his mind in ſuch a judgment. The conduct of a P—— of W——, ſaid Mr. S——, is not to be weighed in the ſame ſcale with that of any other individual ſubject in this kingdom. It was not, he ſaid, more trite than true, that the higheſt ſtations were thoſe, in which folly and vice were the moſt blameable, becauſe their effects were more ruinous and dreadful by their diffuſion. If a man in private life choſe to plunge into exceſſes of every kind, if he waſted his fortune in low and indecent pleaſures, if he abandoned every principle of generous pride, and degraded himſelf by familiarities with undeſerving inferiors, if he treated with neglect and diſdain, thoſe to whom he owed his being, and whom he was bound by every tie of nature, and every obligation of decency to reverence and

obey, what was this to the public?—it hurt not them.—Such a man would be contemptible, but his example was not dangerous; he ſuffered himſelf alone —he waſted his eſtate—was deſerted by his companions—diſinherited by his family, atoned for the follies of his youth by the ſufferings of his age, and perhaps was of ſome ſervice to ſociety by the force of his example, in deterring others from the path of vice and indecency; but, ſaid Mr. S——, when the neglect of that duty which a man owes to himſelf, extends beyond the ſphere of his own miſery, when the greatneſs of his example, by giving a ſanction to vice, depraves the manners and principles of a country, attacks the very foundations of ſociety, and deſtroys that happineſs which the prevalence of morality and virtue can alone beſtow—ſuch a man

ceaſes

ceaſes to be an object of contempt alone —he becomes odious and dangerous, and his conduct is the proper ſubject of public animadverſion and inquiry. He might be aſked, to what did theſe reflections tend? did they apply to a man on whom nature had beſtowed every virtue, every grace, every kindly affection, every great and good quality of the head and heart—a ſtandard of morality, a phenomenon of genius, the arbiter of wit and elegance, the ornament and delight of human kind? Thus had he ſometimes been repreſented. It might be the proper buſineſs of orators, and at times, perhaps, of party, ſo to embelliſh vice: it became a plain man to exhibit it in its naked deformity. If there were any vice, which more peculiarly than any other rendered a man contemptible in ſociety, and miſerable

to himſelf, which waſted every power of the human frame, deſtroyed every faculty of the mind, and depreſſed him below the level of his ſpecies, it certainly was inebriety. He would aſk Hon. Gentlemen, did they think ſuch a character deſerving of applauſe, or of cenſure? —there could be but one anſwer. What then would they ſay of a P——, a guardian of the national manners, who gave countenance to ſuch a vice by his example, who, in violation of all decency was not aſhamed to be ſeen reeling through the ſtreets of the capital. That this was a truth, he would appeal to every waiter of every tavern, who daily ſaw the H—— to the C——, the man who was at ſome future time (and he prayed to God that time might be far diſtant) to govern the realm, and be one of the firſt among

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the rulers of the earth, in thoſe diſgraceful moments of intemperance and folly. Such a ſcene, ſaid Mr. S——, it might be thought was the laſt effort of indecorum—but one folly was generally the parent of another, and a greater: the violation of every principle of propriety, of all ſenſe of dignity was not yet complete, and the riot of a tavern, and the public exhibition of intemperance was to be crowned by the infamy of a b——l. Such was the progreſſion of vice; and in thoſe ſcenes of meretricious enjoyment, where the mind was debaſed, and the body corrupted, this exalted P—— had not ſcorned to be an actor. But this, it might be ſaid, was the error of youth, when the inexperience of what was right, excuſed the commiſſion of what was wrong. In this laſt inſtance it might be ſo—but

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the *quid decet*, ſaid Mr. S—— is not the reſult of experience; but the conſtituent of honour, and the ſoul of virtue. Would to God, continued the Hon. Member, there were no room for cenſure! —the ſubject was delicate—the intereſt was dear— he knew not how to touch upon it—but—a connexion—myſterious —-unintelligible-——reprobated by the people—whether with reaſon or not he would not pretend to determine—and which excited alarms—perhaps groundleſs alarms, for their religion—their quiet—peace and happineſs—a connexion imprudent in its formation, illegal in its exiſtence—and to ſuffer it to continue unpubliſhed, or unexplained, is to ſhew a contempt of the cry of the nation—the opinion of the world.

It was a painful taſk, continued Mr. S—, to deſcend to the detail of the vices

vices or follies of any man, and muſt be as diſguſting to the Houſe as he declared it was to himſelf—but if the expoſition were hateful, the concealment would be treacherous—his ſenſe of duty to his country ſuperſeded his objections, and he could not ſhrink from the taſk. If the Houſe already felt with him upon the queſtion, ſtill more Mr. S—— ſaid he believed they would have reaſon to cenſure his R. H. for the choice of his companions and his friends. Who were theſe? the palaces to which his birth had given him admittance ſupplied not one—the houſes of the nobility were no longer the aſylum of a diſobedient ſon—the happy refuge of a deſerted P-——-, from theſe houſes he could not collect a friend —one hateful cauſe had proſcribed him from the amity of patriot hearts—and he was fain to turn to the refuſe of im-

morality, to find an arm to ſupport him through the ſtreets. But ſhould he ſeek a friend, a friend of the boſom, " where are we" (exclaimed Mr. S——, apparently warmed with his ſubject,) " to find him!" if it were the Right Hon. Gentleman (ſaid Mr. S——, pointing to Mr. F—) the nation might not be without hope—but if a foreigner, a man who was a diſhonour to his country and a diſgrace to human nature, a rare example of all that was baſe and vicious, without one good quality of the head or heart, to palliate or excuſe his vice: if ſuch a man were to be called the *friend* of the H— a——t of the C——, would not its condition be miſerable, its fortune without hope of future glory? The ſcience, the genius, the wit of ſome men caſt a veil over their follies, and made us willing to forget them; but the ſenſuality

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of this man was rendered more deteſtable by its groſsneſs and inelegance. If it were that deluſion of a refined taſte of pleaſure, of the *eruditi luxus*, which characteriſed ſome men in that houſe, it might be pardonable, but it was that of an abandoned, brutal debauchee, without decency, without elegance, without the manners or the principles of a gentleman. The Hon. Member ſaid he was ſorry to be compelled to uſe terms as groſs as the vices they were intended to deſcribe, and to cenſure; but it was unavoidable; ſuch was the character of the perſon he was ſpeaking of, that his own countrymen, as remarkable for the politeneſs and decency of their manners, as for the ſervile reſpect they paid to rank and power, never mentioned his name, without violating the national characteriſtic,

and attaching the appellation of *Black-guard** to the title of ———

Much praiſe had been laviſhed upon his ———, for the elegance of his occupation, for his cultivation of the fine arts, and for the protection he extended to men of genius, but the plaudits of flattery, and the echo of paraſites, were not the mirror of truth. One would think, by their report, that every muſe dwelt within the walls of his palace. In his opinion, a P——— ſhould be ſomething more than the arbiter of dreſs or faſhion, the hero of a dance, or the leader of a concert. Purſuits which might be amiable and laudable in private men would only detract from royalty; and for his part, he would

* The French word *Poliſſon*, is rather more decent.

rather

rather ſee a P—— employed in the ſtudy of the laws, the cuſtoms, the conſtitution of that country he was born to govern, than in producing diſcordant notes from a "viola di gambo."

After a variety of other obſervations, which it is needleſs (or rather which we are afraid) to report, Mr. S. ſaid he would no longer treſpaſs on the patience of the houſe; he conjured them, if the conduct of the P—— appeared to them in the ſame colours of depravity as it was beheld by his eyes, he would conjure them to declare their cenſure of it, by voting againſt the motion of the worthy Alderman; for, ſaid he, the welfare or miſery of the country might depend on the deciſion of that night. If his H—— had forfeited the affection of the people, it was of the higheſt conſequence that he

ſhould

ſhould know it. But from whom? Would the ſycophants who ſurrounded him; would faction which made an handle of his defects; would the *good*, the *virtuous* ——— in the rude ſincecerity of Gallic friendſhip, whiſper this momentous truth in his ear? No. From that houſe alone would he be informed of it, and the time would come when H. H. would thank him for the cenſure which tends to reinſtate him in the affections of the people. Mr. S. concluded by obſerving the part he had taken in the debate of that night, might incur the odium of many, both within and without doors; every ſupporter of v——e, every ſcavenger of oppoſition would load him with obloquy; he heeded it not—he had lived to ſee the day when a ſingle vote was no longer ridiculed, nor a Keppel deem-

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ed the ſaviour of his country; the time too he hoped would come, when the cenſorial office of this houſe ſhould chaſtiſe the vices of a ——

Mr. Fox inſtantly roſe, and proceeded in a ſpeech of conſiderable length, whoſe warmth of language, energy of argument, variety and brilliancy of thought, and fire of delivery we attempt not to follow. Sorry we are, that the limits of memory will commit to the public eye a diſplay ſo little like the eloquent effuſions of that great maſter of oratory, in a cauſe in which he ſeemed inſpired by the dignity of truth, the force of conviction, and the feelings of friendſhip. Mr. Fox proceeded ſomewhat in the following manner:

SIR,

SIR,

When I came down to this houſe, it was with the greateſt confidence in the merits of the cauſe, which I have heard ſo ably ſupported by my honourable friends. Sir, I expected the oppoſition of adminiſtration, for I was well convinced that the ſyſtem of error, that has been the rule of their conduct, would on this occaſion, not want the conſiſtency, that denies by obſtinacy, all admiſſions of truth and conviction. But I did not expect to hear from them, or from any gentlemen, that torrent of groſs abuſe, and that clamour of calumny; that perſecution of malice and of miſrepreſentation from which it falls to my ſhare, in common with other friends of oppreſſed magnanimity, to vindicate the character and virtues of his R——l H——. The honourable gentleman, who has juſt ſate down, has

has gone much at large into a variety of points, which I could not have foreſeen would this night have been agitated; which, I neither deemed ſubject to criticiſm, nor at all decent objects of its ſtrictures. I give the fulleſt credit to the ſincerity and honeſty of the Hon. Gentleman's motives, and though I profeſs not to equal his warmth of language, I truſt a candid inveſtigation of his ſpeculations, and of the novelty of his political ethics will convince us, that warmth, however a proof of ſincerity, is not always ſo of accuracy, and that the beſt intentions, and the moſt honeſt zeal will hardly compenſate their miſdirection and ſubſerviency to inhumanity and unmanly deſigns. With an acrimony better ſuited to cenſures of the moſt flagrant criminality has the Hon. Gentleman deſcended to the minute ſchemes

of youthful gratification; and with a fidelity that looks ſomewhat like malice, has he ſcented out every pathway of amuſement or pleaſure, that his R—— H—— ever trod. The extravagance of the P— of W— is a ſubject that demands leſs the liberal tolerance of the man of ſentiment and faſhion, than a candid attention to certain great facts, in the exiſtence of which his R—— H—— is not anſwerable, as they are independent of him. It is true, Sir, that when we compare the income of his R—— H——, with the income of moſt of the nobility of this country, we ſhall find it greatly ſuperior: but in taking a view of the merits of this queſtion, we muſt place its ſubject matter, in all the relations and ſections, which the peculiar character of the P—— of W—— deſcribes. When we draw our eſtimate from the royalty

royalty annexed to the character of his R. H. when we ſee his dignity, his ſplendor, his magnificence, and the elevated character he bears in the national perſpective, all intimately blended with the dignity, the ſplendor, and magnificence of this country; when we feel that his rank is a part of the conſtitution of the government of England; that he is a great political character; that agreeably to the conſtitution of the country, which he is one day to govern, an antedated ſpecies of royalty, annexed to his mode of living; that he has a court—I mean that he had a court!—whoſe various official deputies are not to be diſgraced by the penury of a mean and ignoble accommodation; where we ſee and feel this, we ſhall, Sir, be better enabled to appreciate the relative value of his allowance, with the objects

which its expenditure embraces. In this diſcuſſion it will be neceſſary to forſake the narrow pathway in which a private individual treads the "noiſeleſs tenor" of œconomy, and mount our ideas into the higher region of grandeur, in which his R. H. is deſtined to move. In the firſt inſtance, the cottage may be ſelected as the object of choice, and the diſpoſition may indulge itſelf at will and at eaſe in its peculiar bent; its accommodation of mode is an eſſential part of the act of exiſtence: it may purſue, within its narrow and unobſerved ſphere of action, all the various humours that diverſify human ſociety and deportment in the elegance of a proportionate expenditure, or in the retirement of a ſullen ſecluſion; but a P. of W. is bound in a deſtiny of grandeur, which, as it is not an object of choice, ſo neither can its neceſſary relations

lations be the ſubject of cenſure. We ſhould be at a loſs to diſcover the ſource of ſo much honeſt error, as the Hon. Gentleman has diſplayed to-night, did we not reflect that he, with many other country Gentlemen, may have received his impreſſions of diſſipation and extravagance poſſibly in a ſcene of academic abridgement, or in the ſeverer ſchool of domeſtic reſtriction. A mind long habituated to the routine of rural œconomics, which, from a ſtate of infancy, the practice of near and valued relatives may have endeared; accuſtomed in the retirement of provincial regularity, to ſcan with a ſcrutiny rather accurate than enlarged, the various ſcenes of faſhionable life to which it is a ſtranger; and to meaſure the degrees of enjoyment rather by the cheapneſs and facility with which they may be attained,

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than by the elegance with which they may be diſplayed. Such a mind, Sir, under theſe impreſſions, and this diſcipline, might ſtartle at expences to royal magnificence, to which it had been unuſed, or which, when made the object of contemplation, were at the ſame time the ſubject of its lamentations. Such a mind would be led to eſtimate the meaſure of expenditure by the ſcale of neceſſity, and, from its own ſubdued aſpirations after grandeur, be cynically prone to ſtamp as extravagant whatever gratifications its own taſte had not claſſed among the luxuries of life. It would miſtake the decorations of taſte for the caprice of idleneſs, and draw its eſtimate of an enlarged generoſity, from the value it had been accuſtomed to affix to the wantonneſs of profuſion.

In order to form a juſt idea of men

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and their conduct, it is candid, it is common juſtice to view them as acting relatively to their peculiar ſituation. View his R. H. under this impreſſion, try his conduct as to his expences, by the obligations reſulting from his ſituation, and I will be bold to aſſert, that however ſome years of his expenditure may have exceeded his income, the exceſs was occaſioned more by the generoſity incident to a young mind of the moſt ample endowments and moſt ſplendid expectations; by an inexperience that is excluſively the companion of unſuſpecting magnanimity, than by a wantonneſs of extravagance, or an abandonment of decency.

At the time when his R. H. came of age, a large ſum muſt have been ſomewhere—it ought to have been in his treaſury—ariſing from his principality. To this,

this, as P—— of W——, he was undoubtedly intitled. The wiſdom of our anceſtors deemed a certain degree of magnificence neceſſary to the heir Ap—t of the B— Th—e. Arguing with great good ſenſe from the paſſions and feelings of private perſons to thoſe of royal perſonages, they judged rightly, as they felt generouſly, that the tranſition from the ſituation of ſubject, as P-— of W-— to that of Mon——h, ſhould not form too powerful a contraſt in the ſituation left and that ſucceeded to. They knew that royalty, with all its faſcinating aſſemblages of ſplendor, power, and influence, would dazzle a mind unaccuſtomed to its rays, and they therefore made the eſtabliſhment of the Heir Ap——t correſpondent to the dignity poſſeſſed, and to the ſituation anticipated.

I appeal to the knowledge of this

Houſe,

Houſe, whether the revenues of which I have ſpoken, are not deſtined by law as I have ſtated; whether they have been applied agreeably to ſuch deſtination—and I appeal to their ſenſe of juſtice, whether they ought not to have been appropriated to the eſtabliſhment of his R—— H——. They have not been appropriated to his funds. They have been ſwallowed in the vortex of royal mortmain; they have been diveſted from that channel in which they would have nouriſhed the virtues of generoſity, charity, and a bountiful munificence, to ſwell the tide, already too powerful, that overflows the banks of r—l influence. Here, Sir, I make no plea to the generoſity of this houſe; but a plea, juſt, conſtitutional, and founded in no refining ſentiment, but in the principles of common honeſty and juſtice, which give

to every one his due: from this ground it is, I dare expect an addition; from this it is I demand for his R—— H—— an indemnification for the abuſe of his rights.

When I take a view of the reaſons and progreſs of that ſuppoſed extravagance which has been ſo animatedly handled this night, and ſo glaringly held forward to countenance a breach of juſtice, diſgraceful to Ad——n; I confeſs I am at a loſs whether moſt to admire and applaud that very conduct ſo warmly ſtigmatized, or to wonder at the blindneſs and malice of thoſe who cenſure it. The anticipation of the revenues of his R—— H——, is a ſubject that calls for the moſt open diſcuſſion; and the acceſſion to certain political tenets, is involved in it, that I never expected would meet the minds of gentlemen on that ſide of the houſe.

houſe. It involves in its reaſons and cauſes ſome great traits of political deſign which when cloſely viewed and purſued in their conſequences, will, I truſt, be not the objects of preſent pleaſure and eulogium only, but furniſh a proſpect of His R. H.'s character that will one day be the theme of national exultation. It has been the fate of moſt of the K—gs of England to receive their education extremely behind the curtain of human life. In a ſtate of almoſt monaſtically recluſe grandeur they have remained unacquainted with mankind. It is little to be wondered at that ſuch frequent inſtances ſhould occur in our hiſtory of their abuſe of the rights among which they had never actively mingled; and that the temper and political mind of the S———n ſhould receive certain impreſſions unfriendly to freedom and incorrigible by experience.

The education of his R. H. is as new in its plan as it will be found ſalutary in its effects on its future political life. In its more advanced ſtage it was conducted, not on the principles of whoſe operations an unacquaintance with life and men was a natural conſequence. Not ſhut up within that repulſive and ſullen dignity of ſtate and ſecluſion that eſtranges the monarch from the man, and which, by keeping him ignorant of others, deprives him of himſelf, we have ſeen his Royal H. mingle a cultivation of the philoſophy of human manners with the ideas and purſuits of his exalted ſtation. "*Felices illos quorum fides et induſtria non per internuntios et interpretes, ſed ab ipſo, nec auribus, ſed oculis, probantur.*"

A degree of popularity, unknown to the education of our princes, was blended with the ancient ſyſtem, which, when ſtrictly adhered to, was found to be attended

tended with a haughtineſs unallied with real dignity, and by an ignorance of men and their rights, that eaſily made them the dupes of unconſtitutional deſigns, and all the baneful influence of an ever to be execrated ſecret influence. It has been uſual in this country to keep the H— Ap———t as much from the world as poſſible—to give him his tutors for his inmates, and it has not ſeldom happened that the director of his early ſtudies has been both unfriendly to the conſtitution, and the ſecret director of machinations againſt it. Popularity was looked on as either dangerous to the reigning influence, that with falſe affectation dreaded a diviſion of r—l ſunſhine, or derogatory to r—l dignity. We need not go very far back into a hiſtory of the calamities of this country, into a detail of the effects of an influence, enormous, ſecret, dark,

greater

greater than the throne itſelf, to prove the effects of an education of the H— Ap——t fatal, when conducted on a a plan of ſecluſion, of favoritiſm, of ignorance, with the active intereſts of this country, And ſurely I muſt be within the conception of gentlemen, when I aſſert that this country is not unacquainted with the unconſtitutional effects of an education of this ſpecies. The good ſenſe, the generoſity, and the magnanimity of his R—— H——, early taught him to know the dreadful conſequences that reſult from that ſecluſion from the friends to his government, from whom alone he was moſt likely to derive conſtitutional habits of thinking. Theſe principles of the mind had in time a prematurity, that at an early age led him to a cultivation of that part of the nation which profeſſed the pureſt principles of

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the conſtitution; and an attention to the influence baneful and unconſtitutional, which he traced to the incorrigible habits of a contrary education, taught his liberal mind, that, however, an abhorrence of the principles of that influence, which he lamented might detach him from the ſupporters of them, his happineſs as K—g of E—gl—d, to which ſtation he naturally, though with filial piety looked forward, was to be beſt attained by an early cultivation of the principles of civil liberty, and an early habit of friendſhip with its friends and advocates. Thus diſpoſed to ſocial intercourſe—averſe to that ſullen confinement in which an ignorance of human nature, and an hoſtility to its rights, are moſt eaſily united and imbibed, we ſee his R—— H——— ſtep boldly into that great world, which from an innate philanthropy

thropy he loved, and for which his virtues and ſplendid accompliſhments formed him an illuſtrious ornament. On this great theatre a part was deſtined him worthy of his ſtation; and we have ſeen him in all reſpects, wherein the great virtues of the man, or the munificence of the P—— could be diſplayed, conduct himſelf, as might be expected, with generoſity, charity, and munificence.

It is impoſſible for any man to know his R. H. and not recogniſe the great and the good that diſtinguiſh the man of faſhion in his deportment, the man of genius in his talents, and in his numerous acts of benevolence, the virtues of generoſity, condeſcenſion, and a manly conduct, that ſtamps a weight and a dignity, independent of rank and title. Whatever is amiable and valuable in

temper;

temper; whatever we eſteem in the friend, or admire in the companion, will be found to be moſt unoſtentatiouſly and ſingularly combined in the character of his R. H.—To a progreſs in the arts and in elegant attainment beyond moſt of his age, and eminently diſtinguiſhed in them; to a taſte that has rendered him among the faſhionable, the *arbiter elegantiarum* of Europe, the model of grace and happineſs of ſelection; eliciting the genius of his countrymen in the various diſplay of invention in the mechanic arts,—to this his R. H. adds the graces of literature, and the happy endowments of an uncommon facility in and intimacy with the languages of Europe. Such is the man on whoſe auguſt name the tongue of invective has thrown the aſperſion of every ſpecies of depadation. If the ardor of youth has ever betrayed his R. H. into exceſſes; if the prying and critical

eye of active, buſy, hoſtile partizans has ever followed him where chaſtity would not go, or through a career of youthful enjoyment; if the cold and phlegmatic ſpy and eaves-dropper have detected him in thoſe flights of paſſion to which they never may have aſpired; and it ſhall even be proved before the cenſorial court of prudence that in ſome moments of unguarded privacy and relaxation, he has not acted the philoſopher, the miſer, and the miſanthrope; the candid and the generous, who have hearts to feel and paſſions to indulge, will ſatisfy themſelves with a judgement not more ſevere upon the character of his R. H. than that which they would form on any gentleman and man of honor; and conclude as liberality and candor ſuggeſt to every enlightened mind, with the proofs of thoſe virtues which he has ſo eminently diſplayed, the

exceſſes

exceſſes of which have this night been his atrocious crimes.

But, Sir, the faults of his R. H. as a mere man actuated by a lively taſte for pleaſure, are not his only misfortunes, during this proceſs, this torture of his character. Theſe find their apology, did they need one in the generoſity of the mind. They are anſwered by the retroſpect of every gentleman's life, and need but a recurrence to the hiſtory of every man's progreſs of character, to meet the moſt complete refutation. Fearful of failing where nature ſo powerfully oppoſed them, the enemies of his R. H. have gone into a theme of declamation, that they thought applied to the more fundamental duties of moral life, and were the indiſpenſable obligations in the relation of ſon and father. His R. H. is accuſed of acting the part of filial diſ-

obedience, and of open indecency in his conduct toward his M——ty. Sir, this is a favourit topic with ſhallow minds, and of ſuch as are accuſtomed to carry their ideas of political obligation from their own boſoms and ſituations into their reaſonings on all occaſions, and on all ſubjects. This ground is not tenable for a moment when we reflect that his R. H. is to be conſidered in this houſe not only in the character of one of the R— Family, and as ſon to his M——ty, but he is to be viewed as a political character born a member of the Legiſlature of this country, and inveſted with honors and dignities independent of the C——n, and derived from the conſtitution. In the character of a Peer he is an independent member of the Houſe of L——ds. As a man he is poſſeſſed of the ineſtimable and unalienable right to his own opinion and way of thinking. To de-

ſtroy

ſtroy this right would be to violate the common rights of mankind. To cenſure his R. H. for a compliance with his own political principles, is to deſtroy the right of private judgement; and is not therefore the conduct which this houſe, by its deciſion to night on this part of the charge, will adopt. I will not take, Sir, upon me to ſay how far a P. of W. might go in oppoſition to his R. F.'s political tenets and to his adminiſtration; but I will be bold to aſſert that the freedom of opinion in an Engliſhman is his happineſs, and that as a Peer of the realm his R. H. is not to be deprived of this great right.

I beg pardon of the Houſe for ſuch a treſpaſs upon their patience, and with a few obſervations more will conclude. The oppoſition of min——y to this meaſure was, what I expected from the known

hoſtility of their common deportment to his R. H.—The right honourable gentleman has affected with his impoſing air of principle to ſay, that his oppoſition on this occaſion, has like the other whimſical ſteps of his adminiſtration, proceeded on grounds of patriotiſm, and on a reluctance to increaſe the burthens of the country. But, though he intrench himſelf within the faſtneſs of miniſterial reſource, and ſhelter his conduct under the ſhield of motives which no penetration can explore, I defy even the chicanery with all its *copia fandi* that ſo eminently mark the powers of the right honourable gentlemen, to prove to the ſatisfaction of this Houſe how his duty to his country can be implicated by the propoſed accommodation; how the happineſs of his country can be affected by an act that would reſcue from embarraſſment her greateſt ornament; and how the cauſe of honeſty and virtue can

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be wounded, by doing juſtice to that man, who to do juſtice to others, with a magnanimity equalled but in heroic fiction, has reſigned the ſplendour of a Court and the patronage of a P——e; who to be juſt has been willing for a time to ceaſe to appear great. No, Sir, to the enmity alone, which a diſpoſition, adverſe to thoſe men whom his R. H. condeſcends to call his friends, is the ſhallow artifice to be imputed. Not all the rhetoric that ſo highly diſtinguiſhes the right honourable gentleman from every other member of this houſe, can reconcile a ſenſe of duty with a diſregard to the proſperity of the ſecond perſonage in the kingdom. And lamentable is the thought, that the r—l ear can be poiſoned by miniſterial ſuggeſtions, dictated by party picque and party malevolence. Sir, the vote of his R. H. on the India Bill is not forgotten ——It is to be revenged. The exerciſe

of an ineſtimable right when adverſe to min——l deſigns is to be revenged. The ſcrutiny buſineſs is to be viſited on the head of his R. H.

The benign mind of our moſt gracious Sovreign is incapable of harbouring animoſities. Of the India Bill it can know but as of an abſtract point. It can know of the ſcrutiny, but as an abſtract point, in which its interference would have been unconſtitutional. To adminiſtration, Sir, alone muſt this oppoſition and this clamour be aſcribed; and I now warn them againſt ſuch conduct, as the moſt unjuſt and unpopular meaſure, that a miſguided and infatuated adminiſtration ever attempted or perpetrated.

Mr. Fox here recapitulated his forcible arguments for an addition, in a ſtrain of high eulogium on the zeal of the honourable

rable Alderman who made the motion and finiſhed his ſpeech for giving it his hearty ſupport.

Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Pitt roſe together—but Mr. Sheridan ſaying he had but a few words to ſay in anſwer to an honourable Member who ſo remarkably ſpoke that evening, Mr. Pitt ſat down and Mr. Sheridan ſaid—" After the vindication, which my right honourable friend has impreſſed upon the minds of the Houſe, with all that fervor of eloquence and cordiality which ſo peculiarly characterize him, it would ſeem unneceſſary for me to treſpaſs upon the indulgence of the Houſe. Gentlemen are naturally impatient to end a diſcuſſion painful to every good heart, but as the honourable gentleman, whoſe criminating imagination and virulence of invective, have been ſo completely exhibited and confuted, may

glorify

glorify himſelf in the ſilent neglect of my right honourable friend, on two articles of ſuppoſed criminality; I am reluctantly forced to treſpaſs upon that impatience. I will indulge the honourable gentleman with a word or two, but I ſhall not, any more than my right honourable friend, attempt to refute abſurdities. My right honourable friend here regards them too directly with the eye of contempt, to have allowed thoſe futile charges to add a ſingle ſpark to that indignation, which ſo evidently animated his manly, loyal, and I may with propriety call it, his friendly vindication.

Sir—The intimacy of his R. H. with a certain P——e of the B——d R——l of F——e, is one of the circumſtances, which the terrors of dotage and the illiberality of ſecluded age have thought fit to depreſs into criminality. The imputation

tion is too groundleſs and indecent to ſuffer me to obtrude the concerns of an illuſtrious foreigner before the domeſtic tribunal of a Houſe of Commons, but I truſt, the neceſſity under which I ſtand to vindicate his R. H. from the aſperſions of malignity, will juſtify the preſumption of this attempt. But ſurely, Sir, when the honourable gentleman thinks fit to diſcard the maxims of benevolent conſtruction, it might be expected that the imprudence of public inveſtigation would have received ſome check from the caution of old age. However heinous, in his eſtimation of ſocial relation, may appear the intercourſe of princely minds, I am perſuaded neither of the R—l P—g—s arraigned will accept the ſhield of hypocriſy preſented to them by the example of the honourable gentleman himſelf. I can only find an apology for his error in the character of his heart, and in the zeal

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of an hypocritical morality. To unravel the intricacies of his accuſation, it is only neceſſary to trace the progreſs of rumour; and all the momentous dread of danger to the ſtate and to morality, will be found to ariſe from the wildneſs of fancy, and the miſconſtruction of imbecillity. At the approach of right reaſon the viſionary creation will diſſolve, and hiſtory will record the fact without the deformities of malicious interpretations. Might I preſume to dictate to the muſe of hiſtory in this particular, I would recommend a brief ſurvey of thoſe illiberal reſtraints which, in the more enlightened ſtage of ſociety, have been diſcarded with all the indignation of generous hearts. The errors of fanaticiſm, and that rudeneſs of mind, which ſucceeded their partial deſtruction, muſt be ſhewn to caſt a ſhade over improving manners by a barbarity of ſentiment, which, forty years ago,

was

was, with his other poſſeſſions, the inheritance of the honourable gentleman. The minds of Princes will be ſeen reciprocally to reflect the luſtre of liberal intercourſe, and to ſmile at the imputations of inherited illiberality, and obſtinate dotage. Her report may conclude by reflecting in terms of a juſt reproach upon the patience of the Houſe, who have liſtened with more than a merited attention to the dreams of puſillanimity, and the enormities of malicious interpretation—but, I truſt, have only liſtened with patience, to reject with deteſtation.

The other article of the honourable gentleman's charge, very properly unnoticed by my right honourable friend, is a matter of leſs delicacy, as it involves none but domeſtic conſiderations; but to no man acquainted with the laws of his country, as the honourable gentleman is

ſuppoſed

ſuppoſed to be, could be magnified into a queſtion of the ſmalleſt moment. A mind impregnated by the confuſed ideas of ignorance and timidity, may convert a connection of apparent delicacy and refinement, into a meteor of unpropitious omen; but by an attentive peruſal of the Act of Parliament, which regulates the marriages of the Royal Family, when the utter impoſſibility of a juſt alarm from the connexion alluded to is fully demonſtrated, the anxieties of a patriotic mind may be appeaſed. But the honourable gentleman muſt allow me to obſerve to him, that the intruſion he has thought proper to make, by this public enquiry into the amuſements of his R. H. is a mark of diſreſpect that cannot be authorized by the rumours of illiberal whiſperings, or the timid ſuggeſtions of extraſenatorial zeal.

If

If the honourable gentleman will permit me to preſent him with a ſolution of what is deemed myſterious and formidable in this connection, I will not ſuppoſe himſelf an inſtance of caducity which ſometimes miſtakes wantonneſs of thought for vigour of conſtitution; and that the illuſive ſtimulus of a diſeaſed imagination had hurried him into one of thoſe haunts of debauchery, he has ſo accurately exhibited, and to which even age is not ſeldom ſeen ſhameleſsly to reſort. No, Sir, I will neither flatter the h—— gentleman by imputing to him, ſo tranſitory and imperfect an incentive to gratification, nor inſult the dignity of truth and ſentiment by drawing ſuch a parallel. But a parallel does preſent itſelf to my mind, and it ſhall be a leſſon of charity to the honourable gentleman. He will allow me to ſuppoſe that in the neighbourhood of his Eſſex manſion, ſome widow of pow-

erful

erful attractions reſided—that under her hoſpitable roof he had found a ſhelter from the peltings of a pitileſs ſtorm—that from the adventure of that day a friendſhip had commenced which happily diverted him from the more hateful purſuits of petulant age, and gave that repoſe to his mind, and that elegant diverſion to its purſuits which by fixing his own felicity, rendered him the more amiable to his friends. Let the honourable gentleman fancy himſelf become ſuddenly the object at which malevolence takes her aim, and the envenomed dart of malignant ſuſpicion is let looſe—I would then aſk him, with what temper of mind he would bear the ſentence of a neighbour, who ſhould diſtort a connection ſanctified by honor and liberality, into an event ominous of ruin to his friends, and diſinheritance to his heir. I will tell the honourable gentleman, that he would not bear it with the magnanimity

mity which ſmiles at defamation and contemns the defamer."

The reply which Mr. Pitt made was uncommonly conciſe, and ſubſtantially as follows.

Sir—After the vaſt range of argument which gentlemen have allowed their minds to take upon a motion, which is only to be met by the more reſpectful repulſe of ſilence, and the ſtrong ground of irregularity, and a breach of thoſe rules which this Houſe has hitherto ſcrupulouſly obſerved in all queſtions which involve the diſcuſſions of a dignity ſo eminent, and of a nature ſo private, and derogatory to that right of control inherent in the crown over the ſubordinate members of the royal family, I ſhould think it unneceſſary to advert to the terms of the motion, and of the debate, had not

the moſt extraordinary ſpeech of the right honourable gentleman rendered my ſilence liable to a conſtruction, which I ſhould be ſorry to have impreſſed upon the houſe for a ſingle moment. The right honourable gentleman has thought fit to inſert into his arguments in ſupport of the motion of the honourable alderman, conſiderations as foreign to it, as they are demonſtrative of a mind that has diſcarded thoſe notions of decency, by which the good intelligence of mankind is upheld, and which ought moſt particularly to ſway, where thei diſmiſſion tends to degrade the eminent ſtation of the royal perſonage, whoſe intereſts are intended to be aſſerted. To that royal perſonage I am ever ſolicitous to prefer my moſt fervent teſtimonies of reſpect, but I hold in abhorrence thoſe adulations of flattery, which tend only to degrade the idol they would exalt. Happily, his royal mind is not be influenced

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by the ſuggeſtions of paraſitical followers; and I ſhall be content to abide by its determination, whether the charges of the right honourable gentleman do not originate more in the illuſions of his own miſtaken zeal, than in any circumſtance attached to my ſituation, or my inclination. I am no wiſe envious of the merit of ſervice which the honourable gentleman may, in the boldneſs of his conjectures, claim by the imputation he would fix upon myſelf, as dictating upon the preſent occaſion to the royal breaſt. The impertinence and indelicacy of ſuch a conduct, may, very likely, ſtrike the right honourable gentleman, as very weak obſtacles, and eaſily to be overcome. Daring as the honourable alderman accuſes my adminiſtration to be, and I ſhould be loth it were a whit leſs effectively ſo, it has never undertaken a meaſure, either injurious to the country, or inſulting to the crown. To obtrude other

conſiderations of a quality ſo extremely delicate, and in no wiſe correſpondent with parliamentary purpoſes, is no leſs a mark of indiſcretion, than a detraction from that true dignity of his Royal Highneſs, which, when regarded with the eyes of a true reſpect, muſt appear ſuperior to all encomium. To obey therefore the ſuggeſtions of that reſpect, with which the motion of the honourable alderman ought to be received, I do, in the moſt categorical terms, deny every particle of charge or inſinuation, which the right honourable gentleman has felt proper to advance upon the occaſion, as involving my ſituation in the oppoſition to it, upon any other grounds, than thoſe of informality of proceeding, and diſreſpect to the crown in the firſt inſtance, and my ſenſe of the neceſſity, of applying every ſhilling of the public revenue, to purpoſes of public expediency.

For

For theſe reaſons, I am ſure, I ſhall but prove my due conſideration for the neceſſities of the ſtate by ſupporting, as I do, Sir, the order of the day. Several members now roſe, but a general cry of Queſtion, queſtion, would not prevail againſt Mr. Le Meſurier's very pertinacious efforts to be heard—and we could juſt diſtinguiſh in the uproar, that "He lamented no opportunity had been given to him of delivering his ſentiments on a queſtion that involved ſo important an object. This queſtion, Sir—involves—the moſt important ſubject—no leſs, Sir, than—no leſs than—no leſs than the—happineſs, Sir—Sir, I ſay the happineſs and dignity of the h—r a———t of the c——n. I—I—I—am convinced—convinced, Sir, that every Engliſhman feels as I—do—that every Engliſhman feels as I do when I aſſert that—that—when I aſſert that——" Here a cough parliamentary

tary took place under the moſt violent call for the queſtion—and the gallery being cleared, we are waiting with impatience the momentous reſult of the diviſion.

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